

## Budget FY 2025

# City Council Approves Purchase Of Land, Cameras and Shuttle Bus

by Michael Zelfiff

The Greenbelt City Council at its May 13 meeting discussed and approved several motions authorizing the purchase of land connecting Greenbelt Station in Greenbelt West to the Greenbelt Metro station, a second surveillance camera and a second shuttle bus, among other issues its members discussed.

## Land Purchase

Council discussed and voted on an ordinance to purchase Parcel 84 which lies between the Greenbelt Station community and the Greenbelt Metro station. This parcel consists of slightly more than 22 acres, some of which includes what the agenda for this meeting describes as “significant sensitive environmental features” such as “wetlands, streams and tributaries.” There are also



On May 13 council approved purchasing Parcel 84 for \$196,000.

remnants of a dirt road which plans envision becoming part of a walking and biking trail that will connect the townhouses and apartments of Greenbelt Station to the Greenbelt Metro station.

Another reason for buying this land perhaps will be to build a proposed road connecting these two same entities. The Metro station is accessible via an exit off the Beltway, so building the proposed road to the Metro sta-

tion will connect Greenbelt Road and Greenbelt Station indirectly to the Beltway. Mayor Emmett Jordan, along with Councilmember Kristen Weaver and Greenbelt Planning Director Terri Hruby, explained that purchasing Parcel 84 will maximize the city’s authority over how this land is developed.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts responded that, while he supports purchasing land for conservation purposes, he opposes this authorization since constructing a road through Parcel 84 will, he believes, adversely affect its “significant sensitive environmental features.” In an annexation agreement signed by the city in 2006, Greenbelt committed itself to spending \$8.4 million on building

See PURCHASES page 6

# Greenbelt’s Bike to Work Day Attracts 100 Riders to Pit Stop

by Rasheeda Childress



Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Kristen Weaver participate in Bike to Work Day on May 17.

Greenbelt resident Steven Bernheisel usually bikes to the Metro, and then takes the train to work in Arlington, Va. But Friday, May 17, he joined about 100 people who passed through Greenbelt for its Bike to Work Day pit stop.

Organized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), Bike to Work Day is designed to

bring familiarity with cycling to the community and give people a chance to see whether they might like biking to work. In the region, more than 13,000 people participated in the event, according to WABA, and there were more than 100 pit stops available – places where bikers could meet, grab goodies and mingle.

Greenbelt’s pit stop, held in See BIKE TO WORK, page 11

## Greenbelt Day

# Painting Party, Lunch and Lots Of Music Fill the Days, June 2, 9

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites the community to celebrate Greenbelt’s 87th anniversary with an Artful Afternoon at the Community Center. On Sunday, June 2 from 1 to 3 p.m., art makers of all ages are invited to join Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructor Racquel Keller for a painting party on the front lawn. All experience levels are welcome. Participants can bring their favorite art supplies or use materials provided at the workshop to create fun, colorful artwork. Bring a picnic lunch and eat on the lawn. Sign up online ([bit.ly/3R1hxbF](https://bit.ly/3R1hxbF)) to reserve a spot for June 2. This activity will also be offered on Sunday, June 9 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, located at 6101 Cherrywood Lane; register at [bit.ly/3UH0hsY](https://bit.ly/3UH0hsY) for this session.

Artists and picnickers gathering on the Community Center lawn on June 2 will be serenaded between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. by Greenbelt Recreation instructor Rachel Ann Cross and her ukulele students. At 3 p.m., the Greenbelt Concert Band will perform in the Community Center gymnasium. Their performance



Two girls enjoy painting outside at a 2018 Artful Afternoon.

will be followed by a 4 p.m. program by the Greenbelt Community Orchestra. The combined concert is free and requires no tickets or reservations. In the second half, members of both ensembles will join forces to perform Aaron Copland’s locally famous suite composed for the City of Greenbelt as part of his

score for the 1939 film, The City. Artful Afternoon activities will follow a U.S. naturalization ceremony in the Community Center gym at noon. Additional activities include a free open house at the nearby Greenbelt Museum from 1 to 5 p.m. For additional program information, visit [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](https://greenbeltmd.gov/arts).

## Budget FY 2025

# Council Confronting Lingering Questions in Final Budget Review

by Diane Oberg

After its final budget worksession on Wednesday, May 15, it appears that the Greenbelt City Council has two main questions to answer before it can adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025), which begins July 1. These are: Should they increase the Greenbelt Cinema’s annual stipend, and should they change how funds are allocated to city boards and committees. In addition, they might address a late request from the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. (Sensational, Inspirational, Talented, Youth) Stars, a double dutch team founded by Austin Graves.

There will be a public hearing on the budget on Wednesday, May 29, with final passage scheduled for Monday, June 3.

Council and staff made relatively minor adjustments to the budget proposed by City Manager Josué Salmerón. In that proposal, FY 2025 revenues were estimated at \$37.956 million and expenditures totaled \$37.907 million, leaving a slight surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$49,500. Since the initial budget presentation, staff have identified some corrections/updates to the budget numbers and councilmembers have appeared agreeable to a

few other modifications.

Notable among them are: a \$39,600 negative correction to the animal control budget; an update to contract costs for the police department’s stun guns, body cameras and associated storage and software (+\$60,000); \$20,000 to continue the service coordinator program in the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program, and a \$76,000 increase, to \$86,000, in the recreation department’s special programs budget.

This last item covers various camps and the Learn 2 Earn program, among others. City

See FINAL BUDGET, page 8

## What Goes On

**Monday, May 27**  
Memorial Day, City Offices Closed  
**Wednesday, May 29**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Second Budget Public Hearing, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit [greenbeltmd.gov](https://greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.



# Letters to the Editor

## WMATA's Bus Plan Means Service Cuts

As a transit-dependent resident of Greenbelt, I would like to share some thoughts about WMATA's Better Bus plan. Although this plan makes grand promises to "improve service and connect people to jobs, destinations and other transit services," it is better characterized as service cuts masquerading as efficiencies. Greenbelt will lose bus service because the Prince George's County TheBus routes 11 and 15X are being eliminated, and the redesigned G12 and G14 routes – renamed P20 and P21 routes – do not serve as many people or destinations. Indeed, the new routes eliminate service to parts of Southway and Ridge Road. Greenbelt's loss of TheBus 11 and 15X also results in the elimination of services that aren't replicated in the new routes, especially a connection to Goddard. WMATA's current attempt at rearranging deck chairs disguises a simple fact: WMATA does

not have a guaranteed source of funding and must go begging for money every few years to the governments of Maryland, Virginia and the District. Residents need more and better bus service, not bus service that becomes a zero-sum game, where serving some means not serving others. If using transit is the more environmentally friendly option, then we should have comprehensive and frequent transit that encourages more people to leave their cars at home and take transit. I have loved living here and intended to make Greenbelt my forever home, but the lack of commitment to transit and the need to fight every few years are making me reconsider. Greenbelt residents who are concerned about bus service should join together and advocate for our transit.

*Anna D. Socrates*  
*Editor's Note:* TheBus routes 11 and 15X are not being eliminated, at least not in the next round of service changes coming June 3.



### Correction

The May 9 obituary of John Ward misstated his destination on leaving Greenbelt. He moved to University Park.

GREENBELT

News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

All the news that fits,  
we print. But not  
without your help.  
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greenbelt

CINEMA

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Members Always \$6.50!

Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,

Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:

Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:

MAY 24th - 30th

IF (PG) (CC)

(DVS) (2024) (104 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:45 PM

Sat. 5:15 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)

Mon. 4:45 PM

Wed. 6:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:15 PM

Sat. 7:45 PM

Sun. 5:15 PM

Mon. 1:45 PM

Tues. 6:15 PM

Thurs. 7:15 PM

Evil Does Not Exist

(NR) (2024) (106 mins)

Japanese w/

English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:00 PM

Sat. 8:00 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM

Tues. 6:30 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 8:00 PM

Sat. 5:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM

Mon. 4:15 PM

Wed. 6:45 PM

Singin' in the Rain

(G) (1952) (103 mins)

Film in Focus | Led by Dr.

Caitlin McGrath | Capped at 25

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Mon. 7:00 PM

PETE REPERT

LEST WE FORGET.

- News Review, May 25, 2023

### Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published). Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary. All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER  
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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:  
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).  
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).  
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.  
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.  
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.  
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



An osprey chases off a bald eagle over Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY CALEB VANDERWAL

### On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

#### IF

IF is about a girl who discovers that she can see everyone's imaginary friends – and what she does with that superpower – as she embarks on a magical adventure to reconnect forgotten IFs with their kids. The live-action animated fantasy comedy film was written, produced and directed by John Krasinski. The ensemble cast includes Cailey Fleming, Ryan Reynolds, Krasinski, Fiona Shaw, Alan Kim and Liza Colón-Zayas, along with the voices of Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Louis Gossett Jr. and Steve Carell.

#### Evil Does Not Exist

In the rural alpine hamlet of Mizubiki, not far from Tokyo, Takumi and his daughter, Hana, lead a modest life gathering water, wood and wild wasabi for the local udon restaurant. Increasingly, the townsfolk become aware of a talent agency's plan to build an opulent glamping site nearby, offering city residents a comfortable "escape" to the snowy wilderness. When two company representatives arrive and ask for local guidance, Takumi becomes conflicted in his involvement, as it becomes clear that the project will have a pernicious impact on the community. Ryusuke Hamaguchi's follow-up to his Academy Award-winning film, Drive My Car, is a foreboding fable on humanity's mysterious, mystical relationship with nature. As sinister gunshots echo from the forest, both the locals and representatives confront their life choices and the haunting consequences they have.

#### Singin' in the Rain

A spoof of the turmoil that afflicted the movie industry in the late 1920s when movies went from silent to sound. When two silent movie stars' (Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont) latest movie is made into a musical, a chorus girl is brought in to dub Lina's speaking and singing. Don is on top of the world until Lina finds out. Said critic Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times in 2000, "There is no movie musical more fun than Singin' in the Rain, and few that remain as fresh over the years."



All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](#) for new video productions.



### GCC to Host Interfaith Speakers

David Alexander, a member of the Greenbelt Community Church (GCC), in his travels has visited monasteries exploring the question of what a pilgrimage means in today's world.

This led Alexander to organize the next Prince George's County Interfaith Conversation on the concept of pilgrimage and what it means to Muslim, Sikh and Christian communities. The speakers are Dr. Aref Dajani, Dr. Hema Sidhu and Reverend Ellen Witko. The event will be held on Monday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at the GCC.

Alexander said he started working on this event after seeing one organized by the Prince George's County Human Rights Office outreach team headed by Kyla Hanington. Hanington was thrilled with the suggestion to hold such an event at GCC. The focus of the interfaith discussions is "to end discrimination before it begins by helping folks build relationships, get to know and understand one another," she said of her office's sponsorship of the interfaith events.

"We are excited about the interfaith series highlighting different voices and perspectives on a variety of themes," she continued. "Our event with GCC focuses on pilgrimage and invites panelists to consider what pilgrimage means for and from their faith perspective and if and how they have experienced pilgrimage in their own lives."

The free June 3 event, open to the public, will be held in GCC's fellowship hall. Light refreshments will be served afterward. GCC is located at 1 Hillside Road. For more information email [office@greenbeltucc.org](mailto:office@greenbeltucc.org).



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
OF GREENBELT

MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
CCG1985+owneregroups.io

Greenbelt  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
  
Sunday School 9:15am  
  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

### City Notes

On Bike to Work Day, Community Center, Park Rangers and Aquatic & Fitness Center (AFC) staff welcomed 100 cyclists. The Community Center accommodated the primary election, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Community Orchestra, Labor Day Festival Committee, Planning and Community Development, Volksmarchers, CHEARS, Advisory Planning Board, Girl Scouts, Prince George's Peace & Justice Coalition, Writers Group and 11 rentals.

Environmental/Sustainability presented at Springhill Lake Elementary School's Career Day and facilitated a shredding event. Streets crew repaired pool decking.

Arts staff offered Parent's Night Out, an Art Share, an Arts Advisory Board mixer and various workshops. The Dance Studio's Choreography Club presented a showcase of compositions. Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted a Youth Advisory Committee meeting and CARES' Drumming for Wellness event.

Park Rangers facilitated the Farmers Market opening, Green Man Festival and a Raku event, and trained with Greenbelt Police on emergency preparedness.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program, assisted by AFC staff, distributed produce and diapers at the Community Center.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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at 10:00 AM

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Church

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Church

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[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



Congratulations to Greenbelt Homes Inc.'s newly elected board and committee members.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

Greenbelt Homes, Inc.  
2024 Election Results

\* Indicates elected to office

Board Of Directors (four vacancies: two-year terms)

264 Stefan Brodd\*  
260 Ed James\*  
247 Debbie McKinley\*  
225 Audrey Donohue\*  
191 James Whipple

Audit Committee (three vacancies, one-year terms)

304 Stephen Holland\*  
302 Zach Conron\*  
290 Bill Jones\*

Nominations & Elections (N&E) Committee were also elected by acclamation at the annual meeting to one-year terms.

Dan Gillotte\*  
Theresa R. Henderson\*  
Tom Jones\*  
Joe Ralbovsky\*  
Luisa F. Robles\*

Ballots

336 total ballots were cast (0 were disqualified).  
316 electronic ballots were cast online by members using emailed credentials.  
19 electronic ballots were cast online by members with credentials assisted by the N&E Committee.  
1 absentee ballot  
0 proxy ballots

### Goddard Bridge Repairs Underway Will Impact B-W Parkway Traffic

Repair work on the bridge from the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to Goddard Space Flight Center, currently underway, will impact traffic on the Parkway. Single-lane closures are to take place during non-rush-hour times of 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Northbound lane closures are scheduled to take place from Tuesday, May 21 to Thursday, May 23 to take exact measurements for the two arched girders that were damaged on September 16, 2021. Tentative completion for bridge repairs is scheduled for the summer of 2025.

The bridge entrance to Goddard has been closed since the afternoon of September 16, 2021, when the driver of a flatbed transport vehicle carrying a small excavator misjudged the height and crashed into the bridge underside. One person was transported from the scene by ambulance and traffic was stalled for hours. Goddard closed the bridge indefinitely the following day. See the January 12, 2023, News Review for more information.



Native yellow trillium, *Trillium luteum*, with bluebells

PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

"The purpose of religion as revealed from the heaven of God's holy Will is to establish unity and concord amongst the peoples of the world; make it not the cause of dissension and strife." – Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

The Bible Says...

THANK YOU To Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice.

We know love by this,  
that Jesus laid down His life for us; and  
we ought to lay down our lives for others.  
1 John 3:16

MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH

IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue  
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Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
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Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 26, 2024 at 3:00 pm

This is What Democracy Looks Like

Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo with Worship Associate Anne Hoover

Now more than ever, it's important to make our voices heard in this election as people of faith, guided by our Unitarian Universalist values of justice, equity and pluralism with love at the center. This service explores the work of UU the Vote, UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland, UUs for Social Justice and the Reeb Center for Voting Rights, which are joining together to defend democracy and other important rights.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD





# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 7:30 pm

### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Petitions and Requests  
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Presentations**  
- **Public Hearing - FY 2025 Proposed Budget**  
\* **Minutes**  
- **Administrative Reports**  
\* **Committee Reports**

### LEGISLATION

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Award of Purchase Police Radios  
- Award of Purchase License Plate Reading Camera System  
- Replacement Trucks 264 Refuse Compactor and 112 Rollback  
- Authorization for City Manager to Execute Contract with Next Day Concrete for Headwall and Pipe Culvert Repairs on Crescent Road  
- Bureau of Engraving and Printing Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
- Authorization for City Manager to Execute Purchase of Elderly-Friendly and Storable Furniture for CARES from Office Furniture 2 Go  
- ARPA Status Update  
- Council Activities  
- Council Reports  
\* Meetings  
\* Stakeholders  
\* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).*

## MEETINGS FOR MAY 27 - 31

Monday, May 27, **NO MEETING MEMORIAL DAY**

Tuesday, May 28 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Not for Seniors Only Discussion, Open Forum for 2024 Discussion, GAIL Updates on Food Distribution & Other Programs*

Tuesday, May 28 at 7:30 pm, **GREEN ACES & GREEN TEAM**, *On the Agenda: Biodiesel Update, Next EV Event, Pollinator Liaison with SMC, Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Update, Curbside Compost Pickup Grant Update*

Wednesday, May 29 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**

Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30 pm, **REGULAR MEETING / 2ND PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, May 29 at 7 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report*

*In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).*

## GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND FRIDAY, MAY 31 - SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Celebrate the occasion with special activities and enjoy the many amenities Greenbelt offers! Parks, pools, cinemas, historical programs, local eateries, and much more. Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) for additional information.

### FRIDAY, MAY 31

**11 am - 1 pm. County Councilmember Ingrid Watson Meet-N-Greet Senior Luncheon** at the Community Center  
**3 pm. Flag Raising Ceremony** Municipal Building. 25 Crescent

### SATURDAY, JUNE 1

**9 am. Walking for Wellness** Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent  
**1 pm. Not for Seniors Only: Navigating the Complexities of Aging**  
**1 pm. Reptiles & Amphibians 101 Nature Program** at Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

**11 am. Local Food Fair, CO-OP's 40th Anniversary Celebration** Greenbelt CO-OP Supermarket, 121 Centerway.  
**12 pm. Naturalization Ceremony** Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent  
**1 pm. Artful Afternoon** Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent  
**1 pm. Greenbelt Museum Open House** 10B Crescent  
**3 pm. Greenbelt Combined Musical Concert** Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of the Memorial Day  
**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

## REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of May 27  
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday  
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday  
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday  
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

*There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, May 31.*

## GREENBELT JOB FAIR SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 12 - 2 PM Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road

The City of Greenbelt will be hosting a Job Fair on Saturday, June 8, from 12 - 2 pm at Beltway Plaza.

Join us for our semi-annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Sign-up today as an employer or job seeker to join us in this semi-annual event.

Contact Deji Ayoku at [dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov) or by phone at (202) 740-6473.

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobfair](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobfair) for more information or to register.



## OFFICIAL NOTICE The Greenbelt City Council PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, May 29, 2024 7:30 pm

**CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025  
FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.**

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2024-2025

REVENUES	
Taxes	\$30,034,300
Licenses & Permits	1,302,100
Intergovernmental	1,633,800
Charges for Services	2,259,400
Fines & Forfeitures	694,000
Interest	150,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	398,600
Interfund Transfers	1,484,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$37,956,200</b>

EXPENDITURES	
General Government	\$5,108,600
Planning and Community Development	1,393,100
Public Safety	12,212,800
Public Works	4,710,800
Greenbelt CARES	1,902,400
Recreation and Parks	8,102,000
Miscellaneous	430,700
Non-Departmental	1,512,300
Fund Transfers	2,534,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$37,906,700</b>

### PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGETS FOR OTHER FUNDS

Cemetery Fund	0
Debt Service Fund	1,053,400
Replacement Fund	97,300
Special Projects Fund	367,900
Enterprise Fund – Green Ridge House	1,738,200
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>\$3,256,800</b>

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS	
Capital Projects Fund	\$95,000
Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$2,088,000
Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund	275,000
Community Development Block Grant Fund	191,200
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$2,649,200</b>

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All citizens of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the entire proposed budget. If special accommodations are required to make this meeting accessible to any disabled person, please call (301) 474-8000 or e-mail the City Clerk at [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov) no later than 10 am on the meeting day. Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/budget>. For more information, please call (301) 474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

*The Public Hearing will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 71, Verizon Channel 21, YouTube and Facebook.*

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

## ARTFUL AFTERNOONS

**Sunday, June 2, 1 - 3 pm, FREE**  
**Greenbelt Community Center**

With artist Racquel Keller. All ages welcome. FREE.

Details at <https://bit.ly/3R1hxbF>.

**Sunday, June 9, 1 - 3 pm, FREE**  
**Springhill Lake Recreation Center**

Enjoy an outdoor painting party with artist Racquel Keller. All ages. FREE.

Details at <https://bit.ly/3UH0hsY>.

## WALKING FOR WELLNESS 2024

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 9 AM**  
*Buddy Attick Park Lake*

May is observed as Mental Health Awareness Month. Help the Greenbelt Police Department raise awareness and provide support for those in our community. Join us for a delightful spring walk around Buddy Attick Park Lake. Enjoy the fresh air and other smiling faces.

Vendors for this event should arrive by 8 am.

The Wellness Walk will begin at 9 am, but walkers and runners are encouraged to start arriving by 8:30 am.

*Sponsored by the Greenbelt Police Department. 550 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. (301) 474-7200.*

## GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

**Applications Deadlines  
Extended Through August 30, 2024**

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic visit us at [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

## GREENBELT RECREATION'S SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Enjoy classes all summer!  
Register online at [greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide)

**Registration currently open  
for residents, opens May 28  
for non-residents.**

**Sign-up today!**



Budget FY 2025

# Recreation Expenses Increase \$500,000; Final Hearing May 29

by Madeleine Jepsen

At its April 24 meeting, Greenbelt City Council discussed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget for the Greenbelt Recreation Department. Council was joined by Director of Recreation Greg Varda and other recreation staff to discuss programming highlights from this year and the department’s budget needs.

The recreation budget includes nine sub-departments: Administration, Arts, the Aquatic & Fitness Center, Museum, Therapeutic Recreation, Community Center, Recreation Centers, Recreation Programs and Special Events. Proposed expenditures for FY 2025 are \$8,102,000 with total revenues of \$1,868,500.

“The recreation programs are just integral to the City of Greenbelt,” Mayor Emmett Jordan said. “From the very beginning to this day, it’s been one of the strengths and something that we pride ourselves on. Because we are in fact independent. Most other municipalities in Prince George’s County actually do recreation programs through Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.”

This independence allows about \$270,000 of county taxes to come back to Greenbelt. Most Greenbelt recreation programming is heavily subsidized by the city, in addition to program fees. The proposed FY 2025 budget includes a half-time coordinator who would manage special city events and permitting, as well as a salary grade reduction for another position to defray costs of the new half-time coordinator. The budget also includes a two percent cost of living adjustment for classified recreation staff.

Expenses have increased by about \$500,000 between the FY 2024 and the proposed FY 2025 budgets. The FY 2025 budget is about \$2.5 million higher than FY 2022, with increases for the Parks Department, Arts and Special Events. Additional budget recommendations include extended hours for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, funding for the Learn 2 Earn program and expanding arts offerings in Greenbelt West.

The department is managing eight projects currently, compared to the one to two projects they typically manage in a year. The projects include both capital projects and American Rescue Plan Act projects, including ballfield renovations, Springhill Lake Recreation Center outdoor play area, the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan, the Museum Education Center at 10-A Ridge Road and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System’s Story Walk.

For the Arts program, council discussed the proposed expanded programming as well as the benefit of offering both in-person and online programming. However, the Recreation Department reported that in the last year, they have noticed less online participation in their programming compared to their pandemic offerings. Given that online programming takes extra effort to produce, the department reported they don’t have the capacity to offer online and in-person options for all their offerings, but aim to be respon-

sive to the requests of patrons.

For the Aquatic & Fitness Center’s FY 2025 budget, discussions centered on indoor pool maintenance and maximizing the outdoor pool facilities during summer. The overall budget balance is comparable to last year’s budget, Jordan said. Insurance and maintenance expenditure categories increased slightly.

For the Greenbelt Museum, Museum Director Megan Searing Young said that the Museum still needs to raise about \$200,000, but reported it was a good year for fundraising. The Museum will pursue additional grants to secure two thirds of the project funding before opening up a public fundraising campaign. In the FY 2025 budget, projected costs for electricity and maintenance have increased.

The Community Center’s supervisor of 22 years, Di Quynn Reno, is retiring this month. The center’s staff salaries and building maintenance costs have increased for the FY 2025 budget. Council also discussed potential revenues from renting out spaces in the Community Center.

Tennis court rentals, a large source of revenue, bumped up to \$7.50 per hour per court this year from the previous rate of \$5, and next fiscal year will be \$10 per hour. The department also plans to begin issuing permits for Buddy Attick Park’s group picnic area pending the successful completion of the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan.

The Recreation program reported success of the teen takeover program at the Youth Center, and the Learn 2 Earn program had a successful first year. The program also reported the success of its free tennis program, which provided youth tennis lessons at Greenbelt Center and Springhill Lake.

While park maintenance generally increased in the FY 2025 projected budget, the city’s Public Works department is responsible for maintenance, not the Recreation department.

The public will have a final opportunity to comment at the city council’s second public hearing for the budget at their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m.



## GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

# PURCHASES continued from page 1

roads and bridges from Greenbelt Road through Greenbelt Station and, perhaps eventually, to the Metro station. Some of those funds have already been used for constructing the bridge and road that now dead-ends on the far side of Greenbelt Station. More of this money, adjusted for inflation, would be used to construct the proposed road. With Roberts opposed, council approved 6 to 1 spending \$196,000 to purchase Parcel 84.

Council also discussed and voted on authorizing Greenbelt to spend an additional \$29,000 – or \$225,000 total – for Parcel 84 and for services such as legal expenses and a land survey. Due to time constraints, council voted to waive its second reading that normally would occur at a subsequent meeting and vote immediately on spending the additional \$29,000. The ordinance also authorizes council to pay the total amount from the Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund. Again, council voted 6 to 1 in support of the supplemental appropriation, with Roberts opposing. He fears that connecting the Capital Beltway even indirectly to Greenbelt Road will bring significant new traffic through Greenbelt Station. Resident Bill Orleans agreed with Roberts and claimed that since the present owners cannot develop the land due to restrictions on its use, council should ask that Parcel 84 be donated to the city. In response to his complaint that council had discussed this matter in closed session, Jordan chided Orleans for spending council time on speculation, and added that state law authorizes local governments in Maryland to hold closed sessions. In a later conversation Weaver, who lives in Greenbelt Station, questioned Roberts’ argument, noting that multiple impediments such as traffic circles along the street that runs through Greenbelt Station will make it unappealing to commuters. She agreed, however, that “traffic implications” resulting from the proposed road connecting Greenbelt Station to Greenbelt Metro must be taken into account.

### Surveillance Cameras

Next, council discussed the motion that Greenbelt purchase a second surveillance camera due in part to the persistent issue of illegal dumping in and around three main areas of the city but also in response to more positive news that Public Works has deemed installment of the first mobile security unit to be an astounding success, with zero illegal dumping incidents reported at one of the main recycling centers within days of initial deployment. Should a second camera be purchased (at a price of \$30,390), discussion turned to a monthly charge of \$150 required for view-

ing images from both cameras together on a single screen. This capacity would be valuable for yet another purpose, to enhance safety and security at large events such as Fourth of July and Labor Day celebrations. Councilmembers noted the increased cost resulting not only from adding this monthly charge but also from additional personnel required to use the technology. More broadly speaking, however, Jordan wondered about the aesthetics of surveillance, of installing cameras at community events. Roberts questioned the need for cameras all over the place and claimed that they do not deter crime. City Manager Josué Salmerón agreed but added that cameras can provide evidence if and when needed on some occasions. Council voted 6 to 1, with Roberts opposed, to purchase a second camera using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

### Transportation and Climate

Weaver said that she had attended and would vote May 15 on a list of transportation projects considered to be regionally significant for air quality by the Visualize 2050 Air Quality Conformity Analysis, used to attain future National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone. While a project related to the ramp to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from Greenbelt Road is now listed as removed, the council agenda explains: “Construction of the interchange at the Greenbelt Metro Station is listed for construction by 2030.” Concluding, the agenda notes general concerns about the process not directly addressing climate change goals, and the general dearth of transit projects compared to highway projects, as well as concerns about equity. Responding to her request for guidance from council, Roberts advised Weaver to oppose what he sees mostly as a cycle of building more highways that consequently produce more cars. Resident Michael Hartman likewise encouraged Weaver to raise her voice instead of just voting along with others. Noting the structural challenges in trying to meet climate goals, Weaver hoped that some worthy projects might be pulled out of the list and saved.

### Shuttle Bus Purchase

Next, council discussed and voted on a motion that Greenbelt purchase a new shuttle bus that will seat 14 passengers and be used for purposes such as transporting seniors on excursions and children to summer activities. Preceding this discussion, during Petitions and Requests, resident Betty Timer, stating that she has lived in Greenbelt for 52 years, unknowingly made the case for this purchase in explaining that reservations for seats on the city’s present shuttle bus had filled within an hour for a recent trip, depriving many seniors of an opportunity to get out of town and explore. During the subsequent discussion resident Leon Schachter concurred in asking what could be sweeter than helping two groups most in need of assistance, children and the elderly? Comments then shifted to inquiring about electric vehicles and the possibility of buying a larger bus. Due to cost factors, however, council voted unanimously to use ARPA funds to purchase a model available now.

### Petitions and Requests

Pastor Greg Amobi and church member Ehinome Okoh announced that Light Place International Ministries, located on Centerway behind and beneath DMV Pizza, wishes to connect better with and extend a helping hand to Greenbelt. Enquiries can be made at 301-404-6794, and Jordan offered to put the church in contact with the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association.

Resident Bob Rand next asked that ARPA funds be spent to extend gift cards for the food pantry to the end of this year. Rand also noted what he felt to be a lack of attention given in the city’s stated goals and objectives to building a more just and equitable society. Salmerón responded that council will soon consider giving \$32,000 from ARPA funds to St. Hugh’s Catholic Church’s Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels, plus commit additional money to other such programs. Jordan expressed hope that Trinity Assembly of God’s extensive food distribution program will also receive support.

See PURCHASES, page 8



### New Listing

8000 Brett Place  
4br, 3.5 ba | \$680,000

Open House Sunday June 2, 1:00-3:00

On the market for the 1st time in over 30 years, this gorgeous Colonial has new carpet, fresh paint, & newly refinished hardwood floors, all in fresh, warm tones. Is this the home you’ve been dreaming of?

**Kim Kash of Compass**  
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Realtor®  
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**COMPASS**



City Removes Bradford Pears, Replaces with Ginkgo and Elm

Playwright’s Maryland Premiere Friday, May 31, at Arts Center

In the fall of 2023, the Public Works Department started the removal of Bradford pear trees on Hanover Parkway near Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), replacing them with Ginkgo biloba columnar (a slender and upright tree, as its name suggests, and deciduous with eye-catching golden-yellow leaves in the fall) and American Elm Princeton (a deciduous, vase-shaped shade tree with small, inconspicuous spring flowers and yellow fall foliage). On Monday, May 20, the department continued with the removal of 20 Bradford pears, starting near the ERHS entrance on Hanover Parkway, continuing on both sides and ending on Mandan Road.

Though attractive, Bradford

pears are a highly invasive tree. They bloom with profuse clusters of white flowers in early spring but compete with native species, have brittle, weak branches, a rotten smell and produce fruit considered inedible to humans and toxic to dogs. According to the University of Maryland Extension, this fast-growing invasive was “self-sterile” when it was introduced to the state but now cross-pollinates with non-sterile Callery pears to produce viable seeds and reproduce.

As soon as the Bradford pear trees near ERHS are removed, they will be replaced with 29 new trees, alternating between Ginkgo biloba columnar and American Elm Princeton, says the city.



Bradford Pear trees bloom near Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 2020.

Chefs Sought to Submit Recipes For Governor’s Buy Local Cookout

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is seeking Maryland chefs and restaurants to submit original recipes using local Maryland ingredients for the Governor’s Buy Local Cookout. The annual cookout, being held at the department’s headquarters in Annapolis on July 18 from 5 to 7 p.m., promotes the statewide Buy Local Challenge Week during which all Marylanders are encouraged to eat at least one local product each day of the week.

The recipe must include 50 percent of Maryland-sourced products with a focus on partnering with at least one Maryland farmer, waterman or other producer. Chefs are encouraged to submit recipes that showcase ways the average Maryland family can prepare delicious, nutritious meals with locally produced food at home.

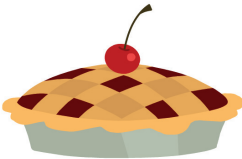
“Maryland’s farmers, watermen and chefs produce an incredible bounty that is second to none,” said Governor Wes Moore. “I invite chefs from across the state to submit their most creative recipes using fresh, local ingredients as I invite all Marylanders to help strengthen the state’s economy and buy local.”

Recipes will be chosen in each of the following categories: appetizer, main dish, side dish or salad, and dessert. Original recipes will be selected based on simplicity, creativity, availability of ingredients, geographic representation and maximum use of local ingredients.

Culinary high school and college teams are encouraged to submit recipes. Student teams

submitting poultry recipes may be eligible to receive a donation of poultry from a member of the Delmarva Chicken Association if they are selected to participate in the Governor’s Cookout (limited to one high school and one college team).

Selected teams will be invited to provide, prepare and share their dish at the Governor’s Cookout. Complete rules of entry and additional information are available at [marylandsbest.maryland.gov/governors-buy-local-cookout](http://marylandsbest.maryland.gov/governors-buy-local-cookout). Recipes must be submitted using this online form by Wednesday, May 29. Previously submitted recipes are not eligible. A \$200 stipend toward cost will be provided by the department. Chefs who have questions should email Maryland’s Best Director of Special Projects Kristin Hanna at [kristin.hanna@maryland.gov](mailto:kristin.hanna@maryland.gov).



A bright light of good fortune is shining down on Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC). Coming Friday, May 31, is a 90-minute one-act wonder – Fiveplay, written by Erica Smith and directed by Rocky Nunzio. Smith and Nunzio, both currently living in Silver Spring, bring with them the experience of dozens of years in the arts and several successful past projects.

Smith has been writing plays for 15 years. She has had some two dozen plays performed, including Stonefish, which was at GAC in 2019. Long before those plays, and continuing to date, she has been submitting one-act plays to festivals with several being selected for consideration.

In 2012 Smith had a script selected as the audience favorite. In a 2018 competition where the writer has hours to write a script, cast it, rehearse and then present it, all the same day, she won Best Play, Best Director and Best Actor.

Like Smith, Nunzio has been immersed in the arts, both as an actor and director. Fiveplay is his ninth directorial project, and he performed as one of the Fiveplay characters (Keegan) in 2022. One might say he knows the play inside and out. Nunzio notes on his Facebook page that he has written three full-length plays. One was produced in the New York Summer Theatre Festival, a strong indication of his talents. This summer he has signed on as a performer for the Maryland Renaissance Festival.

Fiveplay has been described



Director Rocky Nunzio



Playwright Erica Smith

by Smith as a “dramedy” – that is, it contains both serious and comic subjects, which in this instance revolve around something called polyamory. What is “polyamory” you may ask. It is a term used to describe the practice or condition of participating simultaneously in more than one serious romantic or sexual relationship

with the knowledge and consent of all partners.

Smith was asked by a friend to write on the subject. In doing so what she discovered and shares with the audience is all the ups and downs of any relationship, perhaps magnified because more relationships are involved. That makes for more opportunities for laughter and sadness as the characters mix it up in their “polycule”. Don’t worry, these terms are all explained during the play by brief moments when various characters break the fourth wall and talk directly to the audience, a style that has been used since Shakespearean times.

There are plays and movies that are known for capturing the essence of the times in which they are performed. Think of Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982) or Clueless (1995) and even Blackboard Jungle (1955). This play captures the current mores of the times like the 1970s TV show, Three’s Company, in which a man lives with two women, which was not seen as acceptable, but seemed acceptable as he is pretending to be gay, which at the time was marginally acceptable. Will this be as big a hit as that show which won several Emmys and Golden Globe awards? Only one way to know for sure: go see it.

That beam of light shining down on GAC that you see at the end of May is beckoning. Fiveplay will run from May 31 through June 15. Tickets are required. For more information, visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).

GREENBELT News Review

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The Greenbelt Arts Center presents

FIVEPLAY

written by Erica Smith / directed by Rocky Nunzio





May 31-June 15

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

Sundays at 2pm

Ticket pricing:

\$24 - General Admission

\$22 - Senior/Military\*

\$12 - Child/Student\*



For tickets call (301) 441-8770, visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org), or scan the QR code!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, June 2:

Post-matinee talkback with the director, playwright, and inspiration for Fiveplay

Friday/Saturday, June 7-8:

Understudy performances

Sunday, June 9:

COVID-conscious masked matinee (patrons must wear facemasks)

Friday, June 14:

Talkback with the cast!



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## FINAL BUDGET continued from page 1

Treasurer Bertha Gaymon told the News Review that the original allocation of \$10,000 was an error resulting from a miscommunication during the budget preparation process.

Applying these adjustments resulted in no change to revenues and expenditures of \$37.984 million, leaving a shortfall of \$27,800. Gaymon proposed reducing the allowance for abatements to commercial property taxes by \$75,000. The city has built a substantial reserve against abatements and after reviewing more recent data, she is confident that the lower allowance will be sufficient. Applying this change brings estimated FY 2025 revenues to \$38.031 million, creating a surplus of \$47,200 in revenues over expenditures.

**Cinema**  
The Greenbelt Cinema has requested an increase in its stipend from the current \$50,000 to \$150,000 (see article in last week’s issue). Executive Director Caitlin McGrath said that the cinema will not be able to sustain current operations without an increase. Councilmember Jenni Pompei noted that the city had helped the cinema get revenue from a bond bill to support their renovations, although McGrath noted that those funds cannot be used for operating expenses.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver pointed out that two days earlier council had approved a \$25,000 grant from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

No councilmember supported the full request. Weaver noted that as the stipend has been \$50,000 for some time, some increase may be appropriate but that the requested \$100,000 increase is a “pretty big jump.”

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said that the original agreement was that after a couple of years, the theater would be self-sustaining and called the requested increase “a big leap.”

McGrath disagreed saying that the original contract always called for a city subsidy. (*Editors Note:* Roberts appears to be correct. A June 29, 2017 article in this paper reporting on a June 7 worksession with Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre, stated that “council appeared sympathetic to the theater’s failure to become self-sufficient this year, as anticipated in the agreement.”)

The March 2, 2015 contract between the city (the owner) and the Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre (the manager) states: “The owner shall contribute to the manager an amount equal to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) per year for the first two years of the term thereof ...”

She argued that the pandemic

has transformed the industry. Some former theatergoers still do not feel safe attending in-person events. And membership renewals are also down. The stipend has never been adjusted for inflation, she said. If they do not get additional funds, she said, the cinema might have to return to the for-profit model of the previous operator and play only first-run movies. She said that the group may be able to reduce their request to get through the current crunch.

Several councilmembers indicated that they could support increasing the FY 2025 subsidy by around \$25,000. A final decision will be made at the budget adoption meeting.

**Contributions**  
Each year the city makes contributions to various organizations, including a few advisory boards and committees. Mayor Emmett Jordan proposed replacing the individual funding for specific boards and committees, except for the Advisory Committee on Education, with a lump sum for all boards and committees. He proposed setting this lump sum at \$58,000, up from the \$56,900 in the proposed budget. This approach, he said, could result in more timely responses to funding requests. There was concern among some other councilmembers about this proposal. Weaver suggested that council could add an allocation for “other boards and committees” to deal with unexpected requests. Roberts opposed Jordan’s approach, saying that council should not be handing money out to the boards. He also complained that the number of contribution groups was multiplying, burdening taxpayers. Councilmember Silke Pope, noting the number of boards and committees, questioned whether Jordan’s proposal was necessary.

Gaymon pointed out that last

year staff added line item 99 Miscellaneous grants to handle unexpected requests, although this is not directly tied to boards and committees. Salmerón budgeted \$16,500 for this line item.

**S.I.T.Y. Stars**  
Graves came to ask for a grant to the double dutch team meeting at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The 33-year-old team participates in a number of competitions and demonstrations each year. In summer of 2025 S.I.T.Y. has an invitation to participate in an event in Japan, for which it needs funds for travel, equipment, uniforms and other expenses. While the team does fundraise, it needs assistance to meet the \$34,900 anticipated expense, he said. Two other trips are planned, including one to New York, which will require an overnight stay. Jordan suggested that the city could provide seed money for the team.

Several councilmembers pointed out that the group had not followed the city’s process for reviewing requests for contributions. Resident Judith Davis said that the city normally contributes only to organizations that have been “contribution groups” for at least a year and S.I.T.Y. Stars is not a contribution group. Councilmember Danielle McKinney called for consistency in how council handles contribution requests.

## PURCHASES continued from page 6

Orleans reported that various federal government agencies were meeting to discuss widening Edmonston Road to provide access to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility to be constructed on nearby Beltsville Agricultural Research Center property.

Natalie Williams from Greenbelt West’s Franklin Park asked

### Budget FY 2025

## Small Increase Is Proposed For Green Ridge House Budget

by Madeleine Jepsen

At its May 8 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council discussed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget for Green Ridge House, the senior community on Ridge Road subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Green Ridge Community Director Kim Potts highlighted several accomplishments over the past year, including roof repairs, new lobby furniture, upgraded laundry machines and a new gym floor. While the staff has installed additional security cameras, not all entrances are covered by cameras. Funds for the remaining security cameras are included in the proposed budget to meet the county requirements for security cameras at multifamily units.

The building has 101 one-bedroom units, 99 of which are occupied by residents. The vacancy rate was down in 2023 compared to 2022. Since rental rates are fixed at 30 percent of resident income, all residents’ rates went up because of the cost-of-living adjustment increase in Social Security this year. Green Ridge House declined to add a rent increase on top of that.

Maintenance and service contracts were mostly under budget

last year, except for trash and miscellaneous operating expenses. The building has a full-time contractor who handles repairs and maintenance. The FY 2025 budget includes a small increase for insurance, but the building’s property manager does not anticipate any increases next year, since insurance increased several years ago.

Stabilized expenses such as administrative expenses, payroll, utility service, contracts, insurance and maintenance have fluctuated, but Green Ridge House has built in contingencies for many of them, the property manager said. Since many building improvements were completed last year, the FY 2025 budget for building improvements is lower.

Green Ridge House does not have extra social activities planned for the FY 2025 budget, but more activities and outings are being planned in-house by staff. Green Ridge House has an agreement with Greenbelt Recreation to help get residents out for trips.

At the meeting, City Manager Josué Salmerón said that the city had found an electric bus that could be purchased. The bus would serve seniors, an issue brought up multiple times at council meetings, and would serve as a backup bus for the Greenbelt Connection he said. At the subsequent May 13 meeting, council approved the purchase of a 14-person shuttle bus, though not electric (see article on page 6).

The public will have a final opportunity to comment at council’s second public hearing for the budget at the meeting on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m.



# COOKOUTS AND CELEBRATIONS

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### Greenbelt Farmers Market



**Sundays 10a - 2p**  
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[GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org](http://GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org)





# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 13 to 19, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reports one death; two domestics, one involving sexual assault, one involving suicide; and four mental health diversions. On May 17 near Laurel Hill Road, officers checked on a resident because an alarm was heard in the home.

### Shots Fired

On May 14 at 7 p.m. near 2 Hillside Road, shots were heard and officers found casings in the area. Prince George’s County Police notified Greenbelt Police of a gunshot victim at a hospital possibly related to the shots fired, but the victim did not want to speak with police.

### Assault

On May 15 at 8:48 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was approached by four women who hit and punched her in the face. A man trying to intervene was also assaulted.

### Robbery

On May 14 at 11 p.m. near 9240 Springhill Lane, a heavy-set man, masked and wearing all black, walked in and stated, “I got a gun. Give me the money in a bag.” The store employee complied and the suspect fled on foot.

On May 15 at 6:28 p.m. near 6112 Breezewood Court, a witness saw four young men with masks attacking a man; one took his phone and wallet, then they fled on foot.

On May 16 at 11:03 a.m. near 6214 Breezewood Court, after a boy was dropped off at school, he walked to a store nearby, and on his way back to school three boys stole his shoes.

### Break-In

On May 19 at 12:23 p.m. near 8 Plateau Place, someone broke into a residence and stole two decorative art pieces.

### DUI Arrest

On May 13 at 6:02 p.m. near Mandan Road and Greenbelt Road, a vehicle struck a Metro bus. The smell of alcohol was on the driver’s breath and he said he had consumed several alcoholic beverages before operating the vehicle. He was arrested.

### Trespassing and Squatting

On May 13 at 4:47 p.m. near 6305 Ivy Lane, two former employees, who were to have turned in their keys after being fired, entered the business.

On May 13 near 3 Pinecrest Court, a squatter was removed.

On May 14 near 9106 Springhill Lane, a man and woman were found squatting and were arrested.

On May 16 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, officers found a man

in a vacant unit and arrested him.

On May 17 at 3:41 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a previously banned woman was told to leave the store and was issued a criminal citation for trespass.

### Fraud

On May 13 near 7511 Mandan Road, someone gained access to a woman’s social media account.

### Shoplifting

On May 13 at 9:04 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise.

On May 15 at 9:17 a.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man put eight speakers and a pair of reading glasses into a cart and took them without paying.

On May 15 at 12:51 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two women stole items and fled in a dark gray Nissan Maxima.

On May 17 at 8:08 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, security surveillance recorded a man concealing merchandise in his backpack. He ran from the store without paying.

### Vandalism

On May 13 at 5:04 p.m. near 7732 Hanover Parkway, a living room window was broken; and at 11:37 p.m. near 9208 Springhill Lane, a bedroom window was broken.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

On May 14 at 11:15 a.m. near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, a woman saw someone break the window of a 2015 Hyundai Sonata and drive off with it. Seven other vehicles were also stolen: on May 13, near 7708 Hanover Parkway, a red 2014 Infiniti Q50 (Md. 3CT2660); near 5325 Smiths Cove Lane, a 2013 blue Yamaha motorcycle (Md. 1167Y4); and near 7474 Greenway Center Drive, a white 2015 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 6BZ7905); on May 15 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a white 2019 Kia Optima (Md. 8EG9148); on May 16 near 9338 Edmonston Road, a 2004 Honda Accord (Md. 8DT5513); on May 17 near 6996 Hanover Parkway, a silver 2020 Infiniti Q50 (Md. 7FD7299); and on May 18 near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Chevrolet Malibu (Md. 4EP8636).

### Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On May 14 near 6001 Springhill Drive, a 2011 Hyundai Sonata had a window shattered and

ignition damaged.

### Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On May 16 at 7:15 p.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road, a vehicle that had been carjacked was in an accident. A Prince George’s County detective took custody of it.

### Theft from Auto

On May 14 at 10:53 p.m. near 9111 Springhill Lane, a man was witnessed breaking into a vehicle and stealing money; near 7810 Walker Drive, a 2022 Honda Accord had all four tires stolen and a window shattered.

On May 16 near Greenbelt Road, a woman believed her co-worker stole her wallet from her vehicle.

Overnight on May 17 to 18, 10 vehicles had windows broken and disability placards stolen. On May 17 at 11:11 p.m. near 9122 Edmonston Court, two men in a white Toyota SUV were witnessed breaking the glass on a 2007 Lincoln truck; the placard was stolen. Placards were stolen at 12:52 a.m. near 9001 Breezewood Terrace from a 2015 Mercedes SUV; at 1:32 a.m. near 8010 Greenbelt Station Parkway from a Toyota Highlander and an Infiniti coupe; near 9210 Springhill Lane from a 2018 Dodge Journey; near 7830 Hanover Parkway from a 2017 Nissan; near 7700 Hanover Parkway from a 2023 Hyundai Tucson; near 8017 Mandan Road from a 2017 Toyota RAV4; near 7714 Hanover Parkway from a 2022 Nissan Pathfinder; and on May 19 near 9007 Breezewood Terrace from a 2016 Toyota Highlander.

On May 18 near 5807 Cherrywood Lane, a company work truck was vandalized and three full gas tins were stolen.

On May 19 near 7810 Walker Drive, a 2018 Land Rover Discovery was broken into and rummaged through and a Lexus GX had a window broken and a backpack stolen.

On May 19 near 7801 Mandan Road, a window was broken on a Honda and a debit card stolen.

### Vandalism to Auto

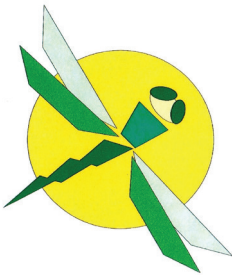
Windows were broken May 13 near 7500 Hanover Parkway on a 2016 Cadillac; on May 18 near 7929 Mandan Road on a 2015 Hyundai Accent; and on May 19 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive on a 2019 Chevrolet.

# GreenCAPS Mosquito Tip: Neighbors Help Neighbors

Mosquito mitigation is possible, and proof can be found nearby. A few years ago, the residents of University Park started a program to control invasive Asian tiger mosquitoes, one of the big nuisances of suburban life in our region. “We wanted our yards back, and without pesticides,” says Ed Wells, one of the coordinators of the University Park Mosquito Control Program. “It’s a community problem, so it needed community action.” About half of University Park’s 923 households took part in the program which included the use of a specific trap that efficiently traps and kills Asian tiger mosquitoes without the use of pesticides.

Scientists followed the experiment closely. Their study, titled “Neighbors help neighbors control urban mosquitoes,” published in 2018 ([nature.com/articles/s41598-018-34161-9](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-34161-9)), showed impressive results: When neighbors worked together to deploy traps in sufficient concentration, they achieved “a highly significant reduction in biting pressure that was maintained over time.”

The traps used in University Park are available for purchase in the U.S., and are – according to the manufacturer - used by the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, among others, as well as the by the French and German militaries. However, one big lesson from the University Park initiative was that neighbors need to collaborate to



achieve success. To effectively combat the flying range of mosquitoes, traps must be placed about every 300 feet, saturating whole neighborhoods.

University Park’s example confirms that there are successful, sustainable ways to reduce mosquito populations without using pesticides. To learn more, to support our work and/or to volunteer, email [GreenCAPS – Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides, at GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com](mailto:GreenCAPS – Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides, at GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com).

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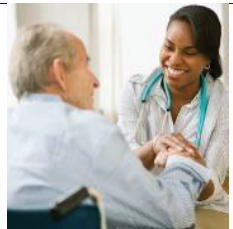
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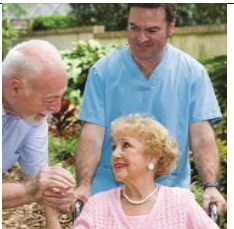


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BIKE TO WORK continued from page 1

the parking lot in front of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, ran from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. and had a variety of activities for people who came by, including a “stretching with your bike” class, led by Amy Rappole, a recreation health instructor.

Bernheisel, who’s been in Greenbelt for 37 years, decided to continue his ride, biking all the way to the Shirlington school where he works, figuring that was as good a time as any to make the full trek. “Normally, I bike on the weekends,” he said. “Sometimes, I’ll go 20 miles.”

For Bernheisel, the pit stop was a chance to grab some swag and hang with fellow cyclists before starting his journey – on a route he had written out on a cheat sheet to avoid making a costly wrong turn. His goals of fellowship and inspiration align with the mission of the day, said Kalli Krumpas, senior organizing manager at WABA, who was staffing a table to greet those who rode up to the Greenbelt stop.

“It’s good for awareness building,” she said. “We are trying to make biking accessible to the full spectrum – from kids to adults. We want people to be excited and curious.”

A Little Help

One exciting thing about the Greenbelt pit stop was that two convoys of multiple bikers left from the location. One led cyclists into D.C. as a group, while the other went to Goddard Space Flight Center. Di Quynn Reno, Community Center supervisor who helped put together the pit stop event, said the convoys offer guidance to those who haven’t done this before.

Call for Sports News

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Steven Bernheisel with a cheat sheet of the Bike to Work Day route taped to his bike

“They can go with a very experienced rider,” she said. “And get confidence that they can do it in the future.”

Quynn Reno added that the pit stop activities are completely paid for by sponsors, not the city. Some of the sponsors included: Anacostia Trails Heritage

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The Greenbelt pit stop brought a variety of cyclists also. A Laurel man, who identified himself only as Frank M., said Greenbelt was the closest pit stop to his home because there weren’t any in his city. He drove to Lake Artemesia and biked over so he could ride with the convoy that was heading into D.C.

Ivan Csiszar stopped in at the pit stop around 6:40 a.m. to grab his swag and watch the festivities before heading

off to work. Csiszar normally bikes the six miles to work on the days he goes in, because he thinks it’s good exercise for his

body and good for the environment. He was glad the event was there to help others, and advised those thinking of taking up biking to work to “check your route, make sure it’s safe and make sure you understand it.”

While most cyclists rode in completely on pedal power, Heather Mortimer rolled in on her e-bike. “I mostly come down because of the people I know,” she said, adding she came in part to support biking to work, but also to socialize with the biking community. It was actually one of her teleworking days, so she planned to bike back home to work.

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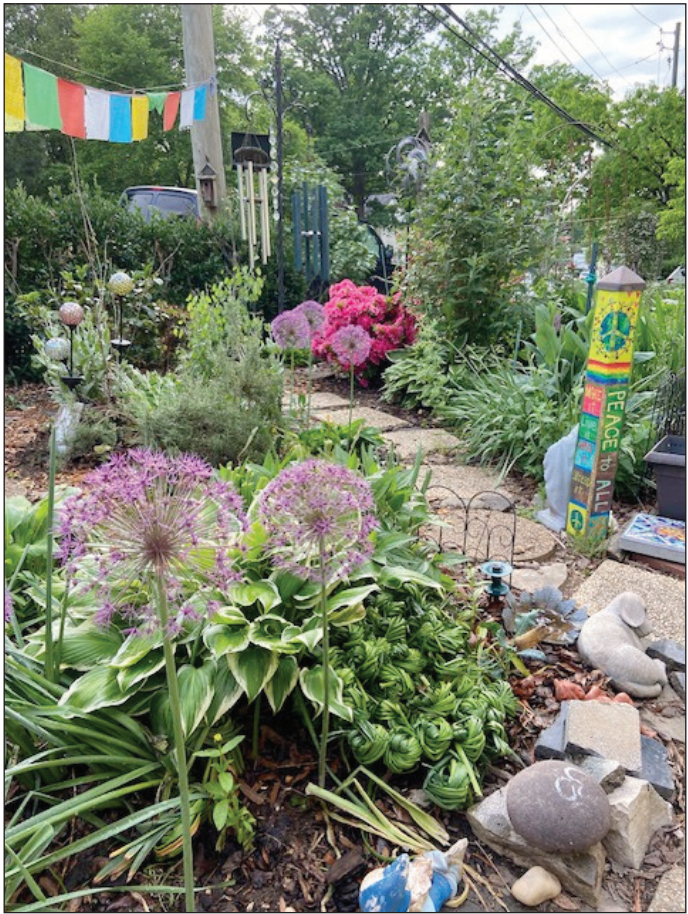
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A pretty garden on Gardenway

PHOTO BY CARRIE DIKE

# Co-op Supermarket Celebrates 40 Years with Local Food Fair

On Sunday, June 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket will celebrate 40 years with a Local Food Fair joined by local vendors in Roosevelt Center. The Fair will highlight the rich diversity of the many small food producers the Co-op features.

The Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy was established in 1984 after the original Cooperative, which had multiple businesses in addition to the supermarket, ran into financial trouble. The board at that time voted to close down much of its operation, including the supermarket. In response, Jim Cassels led a grassroots effort to keep the store local and cooperatively run. After much hard (and pretty fast) work, including a court case brought by some members of the original Cooperative, the grocery store and pharmacy were taken over by the newly re-formed Co-operative.

Visitors can enjoy a fun and community-filled Sunday by enjoying samples of fresh-popped popcorn, Filipino lumpia, fruit and vegetable sorbet, beers and more.

General Manager Dan Gillotte, is “excited to celebrate Greenbelt Co-op’s first local food fair with local vendors. This will highlight the commitment Co-op has to the local economy and local small businesses.... It’s wonderful to celebrate the storied history of our special cooperative enterprise in historic Greenbelt! Our community spirit is exemplified at Co-op,” said Gillotte.

Greenbelt Co-op has been a cornerstone of the Greenbelt community as the only independently owned grocer in the city. Their focus is on providing fresh, locally sourced food, and creating a welcoming space for all of their neighbors to experience together. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday

and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Located at 121 Centerway in Roosevelt Center, the store offers a full-service deli and bakery, natural and organic products, high quality meat and seafood and beer and wine. Become a member and find the store on Instagram (@greenbeltcoop) and Facebook (Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy).

*This article is drawn from a press release.*

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## Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

## Food Rescue Group Needs Volunteers

With so much food being wasted and dumped in landfills, have you ever wanted to make a difference and divert surplus food from food sources to those nonprofit organizations that need it the most? Prince George’s County Food Equity Council (pgcfec.org) has collaborated with Food Rescue US to try to prevent this waste and take surplus food (whether from restaurants, grocery stores or farmers markets) and deliver it to public food banks and soup kitchens in the county. One such rescue is located right here in Greenbelt, at our own local Farmers Market, scheduled each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until mid-November. Two volunteers with two cars will show up around 1:15 p.m. and will check in with farmers and vendors to see if they would be willing/able at the close of the market to donate surplus food to a church-run food bank in Laurel. Volunteers will bring reusable bags or cardboard boxes to collect food, then drive for 15 minutes up to Laurel to drop off collected food to church staff, who will keep that food in cold storage until ready to distribute to those in need. If interested, one of the local Food Rescue volunteers, Jeannie Bellina (rbellina@verizon.net), is happy to answer any questions. The group’s motto is Be the Rescue.

## Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

# NATIONAL POPPY DAY



## FRIDAY, MAY 24 2024



IN REMEMBRANCE  
OF THOSE WHO FELL  
PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM

Greenbelt Unit 136, American Legion Auxiliary